

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 02321 221008 Z

12

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-06 GAC-01 ACDA-10 MBFR-02

IO-03 PRS-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /076 W

----- 128249

R 220902 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USMISSION NATO

JCS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1347

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

USLO CINCSOUTH NAPLES ITALY

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 2321

LIMDIS

USNATO FOR AMB RUMSFELD. USNMR SHAPE FOR GEN GOODPASTER;

JCS FOR ADM MOORER; CINCLANT FOR ADM COUSINS;

USLO CINCSOUTH FOR ADM COLBERT

FROM AMBASSADOR MIDDENDORF

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLAND'S DEFENSE FOR THE FUTURE.

REF: (A) THE HAGUE MESSAGE NO. 2208

1. ON 11 MAY, QUEEN JULIANA SWORE IN THE NAD DUTCH
CABINET HEADED BY LABOR PARTY LEADER JOOP DEN UYL AS
PRIME MINISTER. THIS CABINET IS MADE UP OF TEN MINISTERS FROM THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 THE HA 02321 221008 Z

LABOR, RADICAL AND D'66 PARTIES AND SIX MINISTERS FROM CONFESSIONAL/ CENTRIST PARTIES (CATHOLIC PEOPLES PARTY, ANTI- REVOLUTIONARY PARTY). THE DEFENSE MINISTER IN THIS CABINET IS MR. HENK VREDELING FROM THE LABOR PARTY. HIS STATE SECRETARIES ARE MR. STERMERDINK, ALSO OF THE LABOR PARTY AND MR. MOMMERSTEEG FROM THE CATHOLIC PEOPLES PARTY. REF A PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF NEWS CONFERENCES HELD BY MR. VREDELING IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. OF NOTE IN THESE ACCOUNTS IS THE INTENTION OF THE DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTRY TO ISSUE A WHITE PAPER IN LATE SUMMER CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE DUTCH DEFENSE, PREDICATED ON " RATIONALIZATION" AND SPECIALIZATION OF NATO TALKS AMONG NATO MEMBERS.

2. THE INITIAL IMPULSE OF THIS NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO QUESTION THE NEED FOR THE SMALLER NATO MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN AN EXPENSIVE AND BALANCED DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. UNDERLYING THIS MAY WELL BE A TENDENCY TO FOCUS ON THE USSR' S SEEMINGLY MORE BENIGN INTENTIONS AND TO OVERLOOK ITS ENORMOUS AND INCREASING MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO WESTERN EUROPE. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR AREAS WHERE THEY CAN MAKE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIES AND IN THE ANTI- MILITARY CLIMATE IN THE NETHERLANDS DEFENSE LOOKS TO THEM LIKE A NATURAL. OUR CONCERN IS THAT THE END RESULT OF THIS PROCESS WOULD BE NOT THE " RATIONALIZATION" BUT IN DIMINUTION OF THE DUTCH DEFENSE EFFORT, WITH A CONSEQUENT QUAKENING OF NATO' S MILITARY STRUCTURE. (SEE SEPTEL FOR REPORT OF MY INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH VREDELING ON MAY 17).

STERMERDINK HAS INVITED EMBASSY TO PROVIDE GON WITH US THINKING ON DEFENSE MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATION OF THE DEFENCE WHITE PAPER. WE WILL PASS ON TO HIM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE' S PRELIMINARY COMMENTS RE BURDEN SHARING (STATE 095343- NOTAL). IN THE MEANWHILE, I BELIEVE IT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT GON BE PROVIDED WITH EXPERT NATO MILITARY OPINION SO THAT THE WHITE PAPER REALISTICALLY REFLECTS THE SITUATION OF NATO VIS- A- VIS WARSAW PACT. I THEREFORE SUGGEST, SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD' S AGREEMENT, THAT GENERAL GOODPASTER SEND A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF THE NETHERLANDS, WHICH WOULD ALSO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 THE HA 02321 221008 Z

MENTION THAT GENERAL GOODPASTER HAS SEEN THE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE INTENTION OF THE DUTCH TO ISSUE THE WHITE PAPER. GENERAL GOODPASTER AS SACEUR COULD PROPOSE THAT HE AND HIS STAFF BE PERMITTED TO PROVIDE THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND HIS STAFF WITH BRIEFINGS ON THE SITUATION AS SEEN BY SACEUR IN THE PERIOD FROM NOW THROUGH THE 80' S. I ALSO PROPOSE THAT SACEUR SUGGEST TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE THAT SACLANT

BE INCLUDED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS IN ORDER THAT THE FULL PICTURE CAN BE PRESENTED AND THAT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DUTCH NAVY BEEQUALLY SPELLED OUT.

4. I NOTE THAT ADM COUSINS WILL BE VISITING THE NETHERLANDS AND CALLING ON THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN EARLY JUNE. IF THE PROPOSED LETTER COULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE DUTCH BEFORE THAT TIME, ADM COUSINS' VISIT COULD BE QUITE OPPORTUNE AND COULD POSSIBLY SUFFICE, THEREBY AVOIDING THE NECESSITY FOR HIM TO MAKE A RETURN TRIP TO THE NETHERLANDS.

5. MY STAFF HERE AT THE EMBASSY IS AVAILABLE TO SACLANT AND SACEUR TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION OR BACKGROUND CONSIDERED NECESSARY.
MIDDENDORF

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA02321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730550/aaaajnz.k.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 THE HAGUE MESSAGE NO. 2208
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980225
Subject: NETHERLAND' S DEFENSE FOR THE FUTURE.
TAGS: MCAP, NL, NATO
To: CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
EUR
JCS WASHDC
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USLO CINCSOUTH NAPLES

USNMR SHAPE

WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005